

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A local network having a ring network configuration with a plurality of subscribers each connected within the ring network by a data line to transmit and receive data therebetween, the local network comprising:

a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network;

a second subscriber that receives decompressed audio data via the ring network;

a third subscriber that receives decompressed video data via the ring network,

a fourth subscriber that includes

(i) a bit stream decoder that receives the compressed audio and video data via the ring network and decodes the compressed audio and video data and provides decompressed audio and video data;

(ii) a separation stage that receives the decompressed audio and video data and separates the decompressed audio and video data to provide the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal; and

(iii) a control unit that controls the transmission of the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal onto the ring network

where the second, third and fourth subscribers each comprise a data sink and the second, third and fourth subscribers are separate from each other and connected within the ring network by the data line.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)